

**Response Under 37 CFR 1.116**

**Expedited Procedure**

**Examining Group 3600**

**Application No. 09/975,088**

**Paper Dated: August 24, 2005**

**In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of February 24, 2005**

**Attorney Docket No. 3265-011733**

strength on its face outward of the body when the gate is in a closed position so as to reinforce the karabiner against inward forces applied to the gate region thereof, wherein this region of greater thickness or strength is thicker than the face inward of the body, when the gate is in an open position, and wherein the barrel is a triple locking barrel.

16. (NEW) A karabiner as claimed in claim 15, wherein the barrel is slidable along the gate to a locking position.

17. (NEW) A karabiner as claimed in claim 15, wherein the barrel is screw threadedly mounted on the gate for movement therealong for locking the gate.

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16. (NEW) A karabiner as claimed in claim 15, wherein the barrel has additional thickness of material on the face or side of the barrel that will be outermost when it is in the position of locking the gate in a closed position.

17. (NEW) A karabiner as claimed in claim 15, wherein the barrel is made of carbon steel, aluminum or stainless steel.

18. (NEW) A karabiner as claimed in claim 15, wherein the barrel is sized and/or made from suitable material, such that it can withstand push in forces up to 25kN.

19. (NEW) A karabiner as claimed in claim 15 having a substantially solid cylindrical gate.

20. (NEW) A karabiner as claimed in claim 15 having a wire gate.